

REMARKS

Initially, the Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the interview conducted on July 14, 2003. In accordance with the discussions of the interview, the claims of the application have been amended in the manner shown above with support in the Remarks as follows.

In the Office Action, Claims 7-17 of the present application were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In response, claims 7-17 of the present application have been amended to correct the deficiencies indicated by the Examiner.

In particular, amended claim 7 comprises a "component" and a "material" rather than a "part" and a "material".

The term "strength" has been removed as a modifier to "material"; however, the strengthening property of the "material" to the "part" of amended claim 7 is supported by the specification. (first full paragraph of page 6). As such, claim 7 has been amended to reflect the strengthening property of the material.

The term "high-strength" has been removed as a modifier for the "part" in amended claim 7 and the dependant claims of amended claim 7.

The term "interior" has been removed as a modifier for the "surfaces" in amended claim 7.

As a result of the changes listed above and reflected in amended claim 7, the rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph for claim 7 and dependant claims 8-17 are resolved.

In the Office Action, claim 8 of the present application was rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In response, claim 8 has been amended to remove the term "integral" and the phrase "to create a gap therebetween" and has been amended to clarify the positioning of the internal supports. As a result of the changes listed above and reflected in amended claim 8, the rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph for claim 8 is resolved.

In the Office Action, claims 7-8 of the present application were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hull et al. (reference A: U.S. Patent No. 5,104,592). In response, claim 7 has been amended to be further distinguishable from the cited reference by adding a "cured" material that is "filled" between the opposing surfaces of the component of the part.

In contrast to the present application, the Hull et al. reference depicts internal supports between the opposing surfaces of the parts as "rivets" or produced by riveting. (Col.

12, lines 49-56 and FIG. 7) As such, there is no suggestion or teaching in the cited reference that a cured material is filled between opposing surfaces. As a result, amended claim 7 and amended claim 8, which depends on amended claim 7, are not anticipated by the Hull reference and the rejection under 35 USC 102 is resolved.

In the Office Action, claims 9-14 of the present application were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hull et al. in view of Komori et al. (reference B: U.S. Patent No. 5,948,514). In response, claim 7, upon which claims 9-14 depend, has been amended to be further distinguishable from the Hull et al. reference by adding a "cured" material that is "filled" between the opposing surfaces of the component of the part.

In contrast to the present application, the Hull et al. reference depicts internal supports between the opposing surfaces of the parts as "rivets" or produced by riveting. (Col. 12, lines 49-56 and FIG. 7) As such, the Hull et al. reference neither teaches nor suggest a cured material is filled between opposing surfaces. As a result, it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the Hull reference with the Komori et al. reference to produce the part of amended claim 7. The recited part of amended claims 9-14, which depend on the structure of amended claim 7, would therefore not be obvious to

one skilled in the art by combining the cited references and the rejection under 35 USC § 103 is therefore resolved.

In the Office Action, claims 15-17 of the present application were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hull et al. in view of Komori et al. and further in view of Vandenberg et al. (reference C: U.S. Patent No. 3,634,303). In response, claim 7, upon which claims 15-17 depend, has been amended to be further distinguishable from the Hull reference by adding a "cured" material that is "filled" between the opposing surfaces of the component of the part.

In contrast to the present application, the Hull et al. reference depicts internal supports between the opposing surfaces of the parts as "rivets" or produced by riveting. (Col. 12, lines 49-56 and FIG. 7) As such, the Hull et al. reference neither teaches nor suggest a cured material is filled between opposing surfaces. As a result, it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the Hull reference with the Komori et al. and Vandenberg et al. references to produce the part of amended claim 7. The recited part of amended claims 9-14, which depend on the structure of amended claim 7, would therefore not be obvious to one skilled in the art by combining the cited references and the rejection under 35 USC 103 is therefore resolved.

Applicants respectfully suggest in view of these remarks that all grounds for rejection and objection have been removed by the foregoing amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are therefore earnestly solicited.

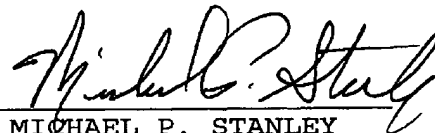
The Examiner is invited to phone Mr. Michael P. Stanley, attorney for Applicants, 401-832-4736, if in his opinion such phone call would serve to expedite the prosecution of subject patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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